

Appl. No.: 10/608,734
Amtd. Dated April 22, 2005
Response To Office Action Of March 8, 2005

REMARKS

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Status

Claims 1-65 were pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 15-26, 28, 33, 37-52, 56-61, and 64-65 have been canceled. Claims 5, 7-8, 10, 12-13, 27, 29-30, 32, 34-35, 53-54, and 62-63 have been amended. Claims 5, 7-10, 12-14, 27, 29-32, 34-36, 53-55, and 62-63 are thus pending.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 15-26, 28, 30-33, 37-46, 48-52, 56-61 and 64 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,528,649 ("Gassaway"). Claims 47 and 65 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gassaway.

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 15-26, 28, 33, 37-52, 56-61, and 64-65 have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Applicants will pursue these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 8-10 and 30-32 have been amended to depend from claims 7 and 29, respectively. Claims 7 and 29 were indicated to be allowable by the examiner, and claims 8-10 and 30-32 are believed allowable for at least this reason.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 7, 12-14, 27, 29, 34-36, 53-55 and 62-63 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims. Applicants have amended the claims to place these claims in independent form, though in many cases unnecessary limitations from intermediate claims have been omitted.

The examiner indicated that the continuity/discontinuity measurements of claims 5 and 27 are not taught by the prior art. As amended, these claims continue to recite their respective measurements and are allowable for at least this reason.

The examiner indicated that the continuity/discontinuity measurements of claims 7 and 29 are not taught by the prior art. As amended, these claims continue to recite their respective measurements and are allowable, along with their respective dependent claims 8-10 and 30-32, for at least this reason.

Claims 12-13, 34-35, 53-54, and 62 have been amended into independent form, incorporating all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intermediate claims.

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Minor wording changes have been made to improve clarity. These claims, and their dependent claims 14, 36, 55, and 63, are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769/2149-00300/HDJK.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Krueger
Reg. No. 42,771
Attorney for Applicants
Conley Rose, P.C.
P.O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
Ph: (713) 238-8000